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SOURCE Chung-kuo Kung-yeh, Vol I, No 9, 1950.

INFORMATION ON IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY IN SIX CHINESE CITIES

[Comment: In October 1949, a Shanghai inspection group toured various cities in China to study industrial plant operations. This report gives information, gathered from that tour, on iron and steel plants in An-shan, Fu-shun, Shih-ching-shan, Shih-chia-chuang, T'ai-yuan, and Nan-ting, as reported by an article in the Chung-kuo Kung-yeh. The information includes methods and plans of operation, number and types of machines used, and production of principal and secondary products.]

An-shan

Iron deposits in An-shan total 27 billion tons. The deposits are considered poor since the ore contains only 36 percent of iron. Through investigation made by US mine specialists [no date mentioned] disclosed that 60 percent of iron ore may be extracted from the mines. At present, only two 400-ton furnaces are in operation, since the 700-ton furnace is still being repaired. Pig-iron production per year is 2 million tons. The iron-smelting division uses German machinery, and iron production per year is 580,000 tons. From 1938 to 1942, the Japanese operated an iron-smelting plant, which produced one million tons of iron per year.

Heavy Rail Manufacturing Plant No 1: Formerly, this plant produced 200,000 tons of heavy rails per year, but the machinery was dismantled. Plans have been made to assemble another machine to produce 750,000 tons of heavy rails per year.

Light Rail Manufacturing Plant No 2: This plant is under repair. It is estimated that this plant will be in operation by November 1950.

The coke manufacturing division produces 400 tons of coke per day. This division has 36 Otto ovens, for which each charge is 16.5 tons of coal. The manufacturing process takes 18-20 hours at a temperature of 1,250 degrees centigrade. There are also 6 Koppers installations, each oven of which can accommodate 36 charges, making a total of 216 charges. Each charge is 8.5 tons of coal, and

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the manufacturing process takes 29 hours. Coal is transported from Fu-shun and Pen-ch'i. Ten to 13 tons of coal naphtha are produced from 1,084 tons of coal per day. It is estimated that in 1950 there will be 3,000 tons of pure coal naphtha shipped to Shanghai.

Sulfuric acid production per day is 25 tons. The inside of the sulfuric acid manufacturing tank is made of porcelain; the outside is made of lead.

Fu-shun

The Yu-mu-yeh Mining Company is divided into different departments such as gunpowder manufacturing, ammonium sulfate and its secondary products, special steel alloys, and oxygen manufacturing. The open-pit and shaft mines contain huge quantities of amber. The iron deposits total about 5,400,000 tons. Crude oil production per day is 340 tons.

The crude oil manufacturing division is divided into four departments:

1. The fuel oil department produces lubricating oil ingredients, green oil, and material for the manufacturing of electrodes.
2. The paraffin department produces wax and related products. After the green oil is cooled, white wax is extracted; and the excess is used as an ingredient for lubricating oil and gasoline.
3. The gasoline department produces naphtha and gasoline.
4. The lubricating oil department produces lamp oil, transformer oil, lubricating oil, and machine oil.

Shih-ching-shan

There is one coke oven and one steel furnace in Shih-ching-shan which produced 200 tons of coke and 150 tons of cast iron [presumably pre-1945 production]. The highest production in 1949 was 350 tons of pig iron. Coal is transported from Hai-p'ing and iron from Hsuan-hua; both cities are about 150 kilometers from Shih-ching-shan.

Shih-chia-chuang

There is one smelter plant in Shih-chia-chuang which was established in 1925. This plant has 20 Otto ovens. Each oven holds 3 tons of coal, and 2.6 tons of coke are produced from each oven. Each of the ten Hinselmann ovens which were added in 1930 holds 9 tons of coal, and 6.3 tons of coke are produced from each oven. The production time of the Otto oven is 24 hours and for the Hinselmann oven, 30 hours. The monthly production of naphtha is about 10 tons; toluene, 1.5 tons, naphthalene, 5 to 6 tons; cresole, less than 1/2 ton. There are 14 to 15 percent of ashes in coke.

T'ai-yuan

The Northwest Enterprise Corporation formed the Northwest Iron and Steel Plant in 1937 which now has the following divisions: iron-casting, iron-smelting, iron-tempering, smelting, secondary products, and mine works. Coal is transported from Fu-chia-t'an. The oven holds 10 tons of coal and the coke production process requires 20-23 hours at a temperature of from 1,230 to 1,240 degrees centigrade. Coke production is 200 tons per day. Eighty kilograms of naphtha are produced daily.

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Nan-ting

The light-metal smelting plant has two furnaces, one for manufacturing tourmaline and the other for manufacturing special steel alloys. There is bauxite in Nan-ting, and Soviet specialists claim that there must be coal under the bauxite mines and that this coal seam is a part of the Po-shan coal mining field.

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